Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) Frequently Asked Questions

How much Biodiversity Net Gain is required?

Most developments subject to mandatory BNG must achieve at least a 10% increase in biodiversity value

Do I need an ecologist?

For most developments affecting habitats, professional ecological input is strongly recommended and will often be necessary to complete the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.

Can BNG be achieved off-site?

Yes. Where sufficient biodiversity gains cannot be achieved on-site, applicants may secure biodiversity units off-site in accordance with national guidance.

Does BNG replace protected species surveys?

No. Biodiversity Net Gain is separate from protected species legislation and other ecological assessment requirements.

Can development start once planning permission is granted?

No. Where mandatory BNG applies, development cannot commence until the Biodiversity Gain Plan has been approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Does BNG apply to change of use applications?

No. The requirement for BNG does not apply to change of use of an existing building though ecological enhancements are welcomed